



STEPHEN CRANE

1871-1900

Born on November 1, 1871, in Newark, New Jersey, Crane was the son of a Methodist minister. His rather indifferent education ended after a year at Lafayette College and another at Syracuse University that was apparently devoted largely to baseball. In 1891 he went to New York City and pursued a bohemian existence, reporting occasionally for the New York Herald and the New York Tribune and spending a great portion of his time exploring the Bowery slums. He produced a powerful novel of the Civil War, "The Red Badge of Courage," in 1895. The vivid realism and psychological perceptiveness of the book were all the more remarkable for Crane's lack of war experience. The book was an immediate success and became, in the the course of time, an undisputed classic of American literature. Crane died of tuberculosis on June 5, 1900 at the age of twenty-eight in Badenweiler, Germany.